



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JULY 21, 2025**

Members: Don McDowell, Christopher Palermo, Laura Streets, Richard Craig, George Cormier

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Thea Alvin, Kristin Fogdall, Robyn Alvin, Matthew Hebbert, Evelyn & Jerry Throne, Hilary Warner, Tyler Maganzini, Laura & Martin Green, Chris Espejo, Pamela Stanyon, Nancy Dunavan*

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:33 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Change item 1 under New Business to Elmore EMS Update

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

There was concern about the area across from the airport by several residents, where the developer had just released the laboratory analysis of the rock as required by the ACT 250 Commission. According to the summary, the rock is 80% to 100% Crystalline silica and the lab report addendum shows samples at 100% silica. When silica is crushed, very fine particulates can travel deep into the lungs and cause many respiratory diseases and cancer. This is a public health matter involving the town of Morristown. 49,000 tons of rocks are planned to be crushed over several years. Three actions are requested: 1. Review the air quality controls and have the Selectboard establish acceptable limits. 2. Communicate with the Act 250 commission to hold a hearing, and 3. Schedule this topic on the August 4, 2025 Selectboard agenda.

5:40PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 6-16-25

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 6/16/25. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (4/0/1) Don McDowell abstained.

2. Approve minutes of 6-26-25 - Special Meeting

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 6/26/25 Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

3. Approve minutes of 6-26-25 - Public Hearing

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 6/26/25 Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

5:45PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Elmore EMS Update

Town of Elmore paid the remainder of the EMS fees for 2025. It was noted that in the Elmore Selectboard minutes, they agreed to pay for EMS services for 2026. However, there was no direct communication from Elmore. This generated concern from the Morristown Selectboard. Brent sent a letter clearly outlining the town's terms. Brent will follow up by contacting the town of Elmore. This item will be placed under old business on the next Selectboard agenda.

2. Consideration for Backyard Butchers Itinerant Vendor Application

The board discussed an application for an itinerant vendor license from Backyard Butchers, who plan to operate a food truck at Tractor Supply. Tyler Machia spoke to the Selectboard, while the regulations don't explicitly prohibit such operations, concerns were raised about enforcement challenges and potential negative impacts on local businesses. The board debated whether to approve the license, with some members expressing concerns about the company's business practices and food safety. After hearing public comments from residents expressing similar concerns, the board ultimately decided to put a hold on itinerant vendor licenses to allow time to develop a more comprehensive policy and address enforcement issues.

Motion made by Richard Craig to accept the Backyard Butchers application to do business selling meat. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion denied (0/5).

3. Appoint Chris Espejo to Morristown Conservation Commission for a 4-year term ending March 6, 2029

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve Chris Espejo to fill an open seat on the Conservation Commission for a 4-year term ending 3/6/29. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Scheduling meetings to discuss potential optional tax sources: Including consideration of short-term rental tax, vacancy tax, local option tax, etc.

It was agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss the local option tax, preferably when Jeff Carr can attend. The short-term rental registry and vacancy tax will be discussed at the September 15, 2025, Selectboard meeting. Laura Streets would like to convene a committee to cover the details of taxes before the meeting, Don offered to join the committee as a second Selectboard member. Laura Streets recommended reviewing existing revenue sources such as EV Chargers, banners and Oxbow Park to generate revenue.

6:20PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

6:22PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

6:25PM - SCHEDULE

- Monday, August 4, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
Monday, August 18, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM

6:30PM - OTHER BUSINESS

- Executive Session - Legal**

Motion made by Chris Palmero, I make a finding that we go into executive session to discuss confidential attorney client communications, premature disclosure of said advice or the potential civil litigation would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo, I move that we enter into executive session to discuss confidential attorney client communications under the provisions of Title 1, section 313 (a) (1) (e) of the Vermont Statutes and to include Town Manager, Brent Raymond, Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi, Zoning Administrator, Tyler Machia, Assistant Town Treasurer, Mitzi Fleming, Attorney Matt Bloomer, and General Village Manager, Scott Johnstone. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of executive session. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

7:30PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm
Submitted and filed this 7/21/25.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.